

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THYROID DISEASE. By George Crile, Jr., M.D., Department of Surgery, Cleveland Clinic. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1949. \$6.00.

This 355-page, pocket-sized volume by the junior Crile is a fairly comprehensive review of our present knowledge of thyroid disease. Although the author is a surgeon he has attempted to deal with all the various phases of thyroid disease, or at least with "the practical aspects." He states in the preface: "This volume is designed to present the picture of diseases of the thyroid gland in such a way that medically trained readers may emerge with a better understanding of the aims of the surgeon, and surgically trained readers may better understand what the internist and radiologist are able to accomplish." This concession by a surgeon that the internist and radiologist can accomplish results, especially in the management of the thyrotoxic patient, is a measure of Dr. Crile's breadth of view in dealing with his subject.

While considerable space is devoted to surgical treatment, including a chapter upon technique, yet the author has dealt adequately with such non-surgical means of handling thyrotoxicosis as the administration of iodine and the new, so-called antithyroid drugs, as well as radiation therapy, especially its latest form, radioactive iodine.

This is a volume which can be read profitably, and used as a reference book, by anyone dealing with the treatment of thyroid disease. In general it brings up to date our present knowledge in a rapidly changing field of medicine where the last word has not yet been spoken.

* * *

DEMONSTRATIONS OF PHYSICAL SIGNS IN CLINICAL SURGERY. By Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S.(Eng.) Surgeon, and Surgeon-in-Charge of the Genito-urinary Department, Royal Northern Hospital, London. Eleventh Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$9.00.

This is an excellent, compact little book of 400 pages with 657 illustrations devoted entirely to the clinical signs of surgical diseases. It is written clearly and concisely with wonderful illustrations, the majority being colored plates, to emphasize each clinical sign discussed. It is the surgical counterpart of the Cabot's "Physical Diagnosis" with which every medical student and practitioner is familiar. It is equally as good as Cabot's book, which is devoted to physical signs in medical disorders. It will be of particular value to medical students and general practitioners since it stresses the fundamentals of eliciting and demonstrating physical signs in surgical disorders. To the reviewer's knowledge it is the only good book of its type in present-day surgical texts, and it is wholeheartedly recommended as an outstanding contribution in teaching the art of physical diagnosis from a surgeon's viewpoint. It can be read rapidly and easily, and an effort is made to have its context stick in the reader's mind by enlivening the straightforward presentation with aphorisms and quotations and striking phrases from great surgeons of past and present. The author also evaluates well the material presented by enriching it with the wealth of his own personal experience in surgical diagnosis by physical

signs. This book deserves widespread use by students, general practitioners, and clinicians who wish to remain adept in the art of clinical diagnosis in surgical disorders.

* * *

PSYCHOSEXUAL DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. Edited by Paul H. Hoch, M.D., New York State Psychiatric Institute; Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons; and Joseph Zubin, Ph.D., New York Psychiatric Institute; Department of Psychology, Columbia University. The Proceedings of the 38th Annual Meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, held in New York City, June, 1949. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1949. \$4.50.

Being the proceedings of the thirty-eighth annual meeting of the American Psychopathological Association, this volume is difficult to review critically. The keynote of the meeting would seem to have revolved around the Kinsey Report, and most of the contributions deal in one way or another with the reliability and implications of this report. Psychiatrists, psychoanalysts, and anthropologists all have contributed, and the presentation of their various points of view is very interesting. It is difficult to fit some of the papers into the general scheme, and apparently each contributor is inclined to ride his particular hobby, but many of the chapters are clear expositions of the point of view of the writers, and well worth reading. Obviously Dr. Kinsey, whether he be praised or damned, has made a deep impression on workers in this field, and I can think of no better way for the physician to form his opinion than to read this book with its presentation of widely divergent approaches.

* * *

CLINICAL CHEMISTRY IN PRACTICAL MEDICINE. By C. P. Stewart, M.Sc. (Dunelm.) Ph.D. (Edin.), Reader in Clinical Chemistry, Univ. of Edinburgh; and D. M. Dunlop, B.A. (Oxon.), M.D., Christison Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Medicine, University of Edinburgh. Third Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, 1949. \$5.00.

This book has the commendable idea of summarizing the various aspects of clinical chemistry in one small volume. Unfortunately it falls short of its objective. There are two other texts on clinical chemistry which do the job better.

In this volume there is too much generalization, too little practical information and too much omission. For example, some tests are detailed in the body of the book, others are in appendices at the rear and others of equal value are omitted. There is no bibliography so that one does not know what methods and standards the authors are using. Twenty-eight pages are given to gastric function—almost entirely to gastric analysis—while only 23 pages are given to all the liver function tests. There is no mention of the blood diastase test for acute pancreatitis. The urinary diastase is discussed.

On the favorable side it should be mentioned that many specific aspects of clinical pathology are discussed in clear, concise fashion. There are also useful tables for the practitioner to look up such items as the normal chemical composition of various constituents of the blood and urine with their variations in disease.

